

Commissioner for Patents
Amendment dated May 12, 2005
Response to Office Action dated January 12, 2005
Page 7 of 8

Serial No.: 10/027125
Art Unit: 2116
Examiner: Stoyanov
Docket No.: AUS9 2001 0614 USJ

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-38 were presented, claims 1-8 were subjected to a restriction requirement, and claims 9-38 were examined. The Examiner rejected claims 9, 19, and 29 under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Barron *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,203), hereinafter "Barron", in view of Dunstan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,964,879), hereinafter "Dunstan". Claims 10-17, 20-27, and 30-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barron in view of Dunstan, and further in view of Wilhelm (U.S. Patent No. 5,500,561), hereinafter "Wilhelm". The Examiner indicated claims 18, 28, and 38 as reciting allowable subject matter. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 9, 19, and 29, canceled claims 1-8, 18, 28, and 38. Claims 9-17, 19-27, and 29-37 remain pending. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss this application with the undersigned representative.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 19, and 29 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barron in view of Dunstan. In response, Applicant has amended claims 9, 19, and 29 to incorporate the limitations of originally presented and now canceled claims 18, 28, and 38 respectively. Consistent with the Examiner's appropriate determination that claims 18, 28, and 38 as originally presented recited allowable subject matter, Applicant submits that independent claims 9, 19, and 29 as amended recited allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claims 9, 19, and 29 as amended and all pending claims depending thereon.

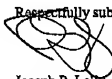
Commissioner for Patents
Amendment dated May 12, 2005
Response to Office Action dated January 12, 2005
Page 8 of 8

Serial No.: 10/027125
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CONCLUSION

In this response, Applicant has addressed the Examiner's claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response constitutes a complete response to each of the issues raised in the office action. In light of the amendments made herein and the accompanying remarks, Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant would request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections, allow the pending claims, and advance the application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney would welcome and encourage a telephone conference at 512.428.9872.

Respectfully submitted,



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